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21 August 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE  
THE JOINT STAFF, THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Estimate of Effect of Holy War Upon the  
Security of the United States

1. The Board of National Estimates has considered the proposal for an estimate on the effect upon the security of the United States and her Allies of a Holy War in the Near and Middle East.

2. The Board questions the need for such an estimate at this time since the prospect of a Holy War appears remote. Efforts to organize such a war in recent times have invariably failed, and most recently the Moslem world proved unable to take effective united action in two instances profoundly affecting its religious interests: the Palestine crisis and the Kashmir dispute. The Moslem nations are so divided among themselves that there is little likelihood of their putting a common religious objective above their individual nationalistic aims and interests. Under the circumstances, an estimate such as the proposed would of necessity be largely hypothetical.

SIGNED

WALTER D. SMITH  
Director

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